

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02307 211658Z

43 S

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 211355Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 298

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 2307

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS ET EG

SUBJECT: GOE CONCERN RE ALLEGED RETURN OF ISRAELI EXPERTS
TO ADDIS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2042

1. IN TALK WITH UNDER SECRETARY AHMED OSMAN TODAY, HE STATED FAHMY HAD ASKED HIM TO TAKE UP WITH ME ON AN URGENT BASIS A "VERY DELICATE MATTER." SPECIFICALLY GOE HAS HEARD "CERTAIN RUMORS" ABOUT THE ARRIVAL IN ETHIOPIA OF AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF ISRAELI MILITARY EXPERTS TO ASSIST THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS SUGGESTING THESE ISRAELI EXPERTS ARRIVED IN ETHIOPIA CARRYING US PASSPORTS. WHILE FAHMY RECOGNIZES THAT ANY DECISION RE INVITING ISRAELI MILITARY EXPERTS IS ONE FOR THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES TO MAKE, AND GOE INTENDS SPEAK TO ETHIOPIANS ABOUT THIS, THE ALLEGED REPORTS THAT THEY MAY HAVE ENTERED CARRYING AMERICAN PASSPORTS, IF TRUE, SUGGEST USG COLLUSION. THIS WOULD BE A MATTER OF SOME CONCERN TO GOE AND FAHMY HOPED THEY STORY WAS NOT TRUE. HE HAD NEVERTHELESS INSTRUCTED OSMAN TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH ME.

2. I TOLD OSMAN THAT I HAD SEEN REPORTS OF AMBASSADOR BASSOURNI'S QUERIES TO AMBASSADOR HUMMEL ABOUT ISRAELIS ALLEGEDLY BEING IN ETHIOPIA. AS I

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RECALLED, AMBASSADOR HUMMEL HAD POINTED OUT THAT

WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT. I HAD
NOT HEARD VERSION OF STORY SUGGESTING U.S. PASSPORTS, BUT THE
STORY STRUCK ME AS FARFETCHED.

3. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHAT I SHOULD TELL
FAHMY ON THIS MATTER.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. MACFARLANE.

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NNN

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